Remarks and Arguments

1. Claims 1 – 2 and 13 – 15 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Lee, US Patent No. 6,147,797, hereinafter Lee '797.

In order to anticipate a claimed invention, a single reference must be indistinguishable from and be capable of performing the functions of the claimed invention.

The office action argues that Lee '797 discloses a lens mount (214 in Fig. 6). But this is simply not true. Upon a careful reading of Lee '797 (Col. 5, Lines 49 – 54), it is clear that reference numeral 214 in Fig. 6 is not a lens mount at all. Rather, reference 214 depicts what is called a "skirt". It is also clear that the digital camera 200 pictured in Fig. 6 includes a lens 212. The lens 212 in Lee '767 comprises the operative lens which is used to focus an image onto the image plane provided by the digital camera 210. This operative lens cannot be removed. In the claimed method and apparatus, the camera, digital or otherwise, does not include a lens because the camera contemplated by the Applicant provides only a true lens mount. As such, the skirt 214 in Lee '767 is merely a convenient attachment for a quick-release coupling.

The office action also avers that Lee '797 teaches the use of a lens emulating flange opposing a coupling. This also is not true. In the claimed method and apparatus, a lens emulating flange (Page 16, Line 21 of Applicant's specification) is included in a camera adapter. This lens emulating flange mimics a standard camera lens, thereby allowing the attachment of a high quality camera, digital or otherwise, to the camera adapter. One distinction here is that the digital camera accepts the camera adapter as an ordinary

camera lens. In Lee '797, a threaded element 224 is screwed into a corresponding thread included in the skirt 212 provided in the digital camera 210. Again, the lens 212 is fixed in the digital camera 210 introduced by Lee '797. Hence, any apparatus described by Lee '797 does not serve to emulate a camera lens as the office action avers. Again, this is only one and certainly not the only distinction because the quality of a lens provided by a fixed lens camera may not be suitable for high-quality optical examinations performed on a patient, as contemplated by applicant.

As such, Lee '797 is entirely distinct from the claimed invention in that Lee '797 does not teach an adapter that mates with a lens mount. Also, Lee ' 797 is not capable of attaching to a camera because it does not have the ability to mount to a "len mount". Accordingly, Applicant kindly requests that the rejection of Claim 1 – 2 and 13 – 15 be withdrawn.

2. Claims 3 – 6 and 16 – 19 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee (US Patent 6,147,797) in view of Steinberg et al (US Patent No. 6,628,325).

In order to support a *prima facia* case for obviousness using a particular set of references, the references must exhibit the following attributes:

(a) The prior art references must collectively teach or suggest all of the claim limitations in the application;

(b) There must be a reasonable expectation of success in modifying the reference; and

(c) The references must suggest or provide some motivation to modify and / or combine the reference teachings.

It is clear that the singular reference (i.e. Lee '797) provided by the office action fails to teach each every claim limitations set forth by the Applicant. Upon a further careful reading and study of Lee '797, there is absolutely no mention of emulating a camera lens as the Applicant here has taught. As such, the Applicant see absolutely no motivation whatsoever as to why an artisan would have been motivated by the teachings of Lee '797 to modify the reference teachings in a manner to yield an emulating mechanism as the applicant now claims as his own.

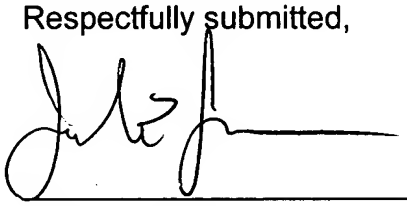
Applicant notes that Steinberg '325 also fails to teach attachment of a camera to an optical system by means of a lens emulating adapter. Because neither Lee '797 nor Steinberg '325 disclose attachment to a lens mount by means of an adapter as described by Applicant, the rejection of Claims 3 – 6 and 16 – 19 under 35 USC 103 also can not be sustained because the prima facia case has not been met.

The burden of establishing obviousness carries with it an obligation to set forth a convincing line of reasoning as to why an artisan would have modified and/or combined the reference teachings. Simply stating that "it would have been obvious" is insufficient to meet this burden. The obviousness rejection set forth in the office action has not put forth any reasoning as to why the proposed modifications and combinations would be obvious.

3. With respect to all depended claims rejected by the office action, applicant submits that such dependent claims have been demonstrated to be novel and non-obvious. As such, all dependent claims that stem from a non-obvious independent claim are to be considered as non-obvious.

4. Based on the foregoing, Applicant considers the present invention to be distinguished from the art of record. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully solicits the Examiner's withdrawal of the rejections raised in the above referenced Office Action, such that a Notice of Allowance is forwarded to Applicant, and the present application is therefore allowed to issue as a United States patent.

Respectfully submitted,



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